

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A material to be molded comprising a porous material in which a phenolic resin is impregnated, wherein said resin is produced by condensation of a phenolic compound and an aldehyde and/or aldehyde donor by using ammonia and/or amine as a catalyst, and wherein said phenolic resin is at least partially sulfomethylated and/or sulfimethylated at a time when said phenolic resin is at B-stage to enhance moldability, storage life, and heat resistance, and additional amount of ammonia and/or amine is/are controlled between 0.001 and 20 by weight depending on the desirable curing temperature.

Claims 2 - 4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (previously presented): A material to be molded in accordance with claim 1 shaped as a sheet.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A molded material comprising a base sheet and a cured material in accordance with claim 5 laminated on said base sheet as a surface layer wherein phenolic resin impregnated in said material is cured.

Claim 7 (previously presented): An interior material comprising a base formed of a material in accordance with claim 1 wherein phenolic resin impregnating said material is cured, and a surface layer laminated on said base.

Claim 8 (previously presented): An interior material in accordance with claim 7, wherein said base sheet and said surface layer are bonded together by an adhesive.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): A method of manufacturing a material to be molded comprising the steps of

preparing a precondensation polymer of a phenolic compound and an aldehyde and/or aldehyde donor which is at least partially sulfomethylated and/or sulfimethylated by adding a sulfomethylation reagent and/or a sulfimethylation reagent at any stage, impregnating said precondensation polymer solution into a porous material, and curing and drying said porous material to condense slightly said precondensation polymer to make it at B-stage.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): A method in accordance with claim 9, comprising the steps of

chemically and/or mechanically foaming said precondensation polymer solution, contacting said porous material with said foamed precondensation polymer solution, and then

pressing said porous material to impregnate said foamed precondensation polymer solution into said porous material.

Claim 11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (withdrawn): A method in accordance with claim 9, comprising the steps of producing said precondensation polymer of said thermosetting resin by condensing a phenolic compound and aldehyde and/or aldehyde donor using ammonia and/or amine.

Claim 13 (cancelled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): A material to be molded shaped as a base sheet, an adhesive, and a cured material laminated on said base sheet as a surface layer by means including said adhesive and comprising a porous material in which a phenolic resin is impregnated, said phenolic resin comprising a condensating polymer of a phenolic compound and an aldehyde and/or aldehyde donor produced using ammonia and/or

amine as a catalyst, wherein said phenolic resin is at least partially sulfomethylated and/or sulfimethylated at a time when said phenolic resin is at B-stage to enhance moldability, storage life, and heat resistance, and additional amount of ammonia and/or amine is/are controlled between 0.001 and 20 by weight depending on the desirable curing temperature.